



CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

November 13,
1948

No 1547

EVERY TUESDAY

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

PRICE THREEPENCE

A PLANE THAT WILL FLY "FOR EVER"

An Idea For the Atomic Age

How long will it be before we have cars and planes driven by atomic power? That is a question often asked. Now comes news that American technicians have on their drawing boards plans for an atomic plane that will fly "for ever." Although it is only at the idea stage it is a sign that things are moving fast in the atomic world.

We already have the atomic pile. This is a huge conglomeration of materials, weighing hundreds of tons, with bars of metallic uranium scattered throughout the mass. The energy given off by the uranium heats the pile, and this heat can be used for raising steam which, in turn, can be used for running engines. In this way several thousand kilowatts of energy can be obtained.

But it is obvious that this is a wasteful method of utilising the latent energy in the uranium. True, the heat will continue for thousands of years without much diminution, but a more direct method of harnessing the energy of the atom is wanted. Have the American technicians found it?

I think they have, writes a scientific correspondent. A flying atomic pile would be a monstrosity, so they must have discovered a more efficient method of getting power from the atom.

The Elements

Just let us see where this power comes from. There are ninety-two elements, excluding a few artificially-created ones. The lighter elements are relatively simple in structure, consisting of atoms which have a few electrons whirling round a central nucleus, which consists of neutrons and protons.

The heavier the element the more numerous do these electrons, neutrons, and protons become. In uranium, the heaviest element of all, they are so numerous that some are crowded

out. They actually leave the atom spontaneously in the form of Alpha particles, and Gamma and Beta rays.

So far so good. If left alone, the uranium will continue to dole out these particles parsimoniously for hundreds of millions of years. But along comes Man and initiates the process of nuclear fission.

Chain Reaction

In nuclear fission a neutron is shot into the heart of the atom, into the nucleus, in fact. The result is startling. The atom breaks into two, releasing a great amount of energy. Not only that, but it shoots out other neutrons, and these neutrons enter the nuclei of other atoms, initiating fission in them also. In this way a chain reaction is set up, the fission travelling from atom to atom with remarkable rapidity, each atom releasing a vast amount of energy.

Since there are billions of atoms in even a speck of matter so small that a high-power microscope would be needed to see it, it is understandable that when we have a sizeable chunk of matter the resulting reaction is no joke; it is, in fact, an atomic bomb.

In an atomic pile retarders are incorporated to slow down the reaction. It is obvious that if some sort of engine could be invented to take the "thrust" of the exploding atoms we would have an illimitable source of power. So far the American plane idea is "on paper" only. But many believe that one day it will become reality, and that the world's coal mines will at once become useless holes in the ground.

FOR JOHN SMITH

It took the New Zealand Post Office authorities six weeks to find John Smith—the right one, of course, for the Dominion has more than a few John Smiths.

Their search began when a letter from Trieste reached New Zealand addressed to "John Smith, care of Postmaster-General." Quite a problem!

However, the writer had added a note that "John Smith" was a soldier who had served under General Freyberg at Trieste in 1945. That helped, and the next task was to find out from the Army Records office which John Smith was soldiering at Trieste when the war ended.

Ultimately, the right John Smith was tracked down. He proved to be quite a well-known figure—Mr J. B. Smith, of Kaikohe, who in 1947 played in the New Zealand Rugby team.

A HELPING HAND



The arm of the law holds up London traffic while two young people who have been doing some early Christmas shopping are escorted across a street at the pace of a toy tortoise.

The Warm-Blooded Fish

MR STRACHEY, the Food Minister, is introducing to the notice of housewives a fish that will be quite new to most people in this country. It is the tunny, a splendid member of the mackerel family, reaching ten feet in length and half a ton in weight.

We ought to know more of the tunny, for it is a fish of almost world-wide distribution, to be found in the Atlantic, the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and flourishing freely in the Mediterranean. It is, however, rarely to be found in numbers off our coasts, keeping to deeper waters. Our sporting fishermen in search of tunny have to go well out from land, and so swift and strong is this fish that they often find it wise to use harness to enable the struggle to

be safely maintained with rod and line.

It is not, then, on home supplies that we can rely for tunny, but on the catches of foreign fishermen; the latest to make themselves known here being the Turks, who have created the industry in tinned tunny, which our Food Minister has been commending to British housewives.

The taste resembles that of prime beef, and it is interesting in this connection to note that the tunny is the only fish with warm blood. Whale-meat also tastes like beef, but the whale is a mammal and therefore warm-blooded. Fish other than the tunny are generally regarded as being, like the reptiles, all cold-blooded.

THE TOWN THAT MOVES ON

THE towns we know "stay put," they have been in the same place for centuries, but the town of tomorrow may be there the next day and gone the day after. Mr Chifley, Prime Minister of Australia, predicted recently that mobile towns might have to be created in Australia in order that workers might be moved from one scene of operations to another.

He was speaking of the Australian Government's great £600,000,000 public works scheme for building roads, dams, bridges, harbours, and so on. Carrying out these works, he said, will mean

that large bodies of people will have to be moved as work ends on one project and begins on another. The mobile towns which he visualises are presumably towns of prefabricated houses and other buildings which can be speedily taken down, moved on, and re-erected elsewhere.

This, indeed, is already being done in carrying out the Wargamba Dam scheme in New South Wales. The workers live in a prefabricated town, and when the time comes for them to move to a new stretch of the undertaking the whole town is "struck" like a camp and moved.

Footprints in the Cavern

MADE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO

FROM France has come news recently of an exciting discovery made in some caves—in the well-known Grotto of Aldene, on the north-west coast of the Lion Gulf. Here, on the floor of a newly-found underground chamber, have been found the tracks of men and of animals living between 15,000 and 20,000 years ago.

An experienced explorer of the caves in this limestone area was making his way through the Grotto of Aldene when he noticed a narrow cavity in the rock. Squeezing through with some difficulty, he negotiated a steep descent of over 60 feet to find himself in a network of passages probably untrodden by human feet for many thousands of years.

Preserved in Clay

These passages led to a chamber where his torch lit up his remarkable discovery. There on the floor were scores of tracks, some of them imprints of the naked feet of human beings, others the imprints of bears and hyenas. Once soft, the clay had later become as hard as concrete, and so had preserved the footprints with remarkable clearness. On the walls of the chamber were countless claw marks and—far more thrilling—the very charcoal marks where a prehistoric man had struck his torch to extinguish it.

On examination the human footprints proved to be very like those of today. There were also smaller impressions made by children's feet, and so clear were the petrified imprints that it could be seen where the walker had slipped or where he had gone on his toes to preserve his balance on a slippery slope. In one part of the chamber, too, where the roof is low and the early inhabitants had been forced to crawl, there were traces not only of feet, but of knees, elbows, and hands as well.

At Least 15,000 Years Old

Obviously, at different times, the chamber had served as a lair for both hyenas and bears, as the innumerable tracks showed. There was one slope which the bears seemed to have used as a slide, and the marks of their claws and even of their separate hairs could also be seen.

Hyenas have been extinct in France for some 15,000 years, and so it can be proved that men sheltered in this underground chamber at least as long ago. Proof of this lies in a piece of charcoal crushed by a hyena's foot. The charcoal could have been brought in only by man, and as the two could not have lived together it follows that man occupied the chamber first.

As yet, however, this newly-discovered chamber of the Grotto of Aldene has not been fully investigated and more traces may yet be discovered of Magdalenian Man who walked those underground caverns so long ago.

GETTING READY



A new recruit of the 10th Parachute Battalion of the Territorials gets a helping hand with his 'chute before going up to his first jump from a captive balloon in Bushy Park.

Progress Toward Real Western Union

THE recent meeting in Paris of the Foreign Ministers of the Brussels-Treaty Powers—Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxemburg—has undoubtedly brought nearer the day when the idea of their full union can become a reality.

As was to be expected in the present difficult international situation, the questions of defence of the West loomed very large in the Paris talks.

But it is not only in the organisation of its defence forces that the importance of Western Union lies. The wider significance of the recent talks is to be found in far-reaching plans to bring real unity—social, cultural, and economic—between the five nations. Here, indeed, are the germs of a new unity of the Western world never achieved since the time of Charlemagne.

Things have begun to move at last to attain a political union. That had already been expressed in the French proposal to call a European Assembly, that is, a West European Parliament, and the British idea of establishing a European Council (which would be a smaller body) appointed by the respective Governments. Both suggestions are to be thoroughly studied by a committee appointed by the five Governments. And more than that. This committee is to consider fully ideas which have been developed by private organisations.

No Passports

There is also to be close contact between the Western Union countries on matters of social security, co-ordination of health services, and an improved standard of living.

Every CN reader will be interested in the suggested advance in the wide field of cultural life. An impressive list of subjects is now under consideration, such as the restoration of pre-war travel facilities with a possibility of abolishing passports altogether.

Working parties are also being set up to study means of improving the flow of books and periodicals across the frontiers, as well as of contemporary works of art, non-commercial films, gramophone records, recorded radio programmes, and other cultural material. Experts are to consider how the five countries can co-operate on educational films and newsreels.

NATIONS UNITE AGAINST A PEST

WITH another potato harvest safely gathered in, we should be thankful that the Colorado beetle has once more been kept at bay in this country.

This is due to the vigilance shown by farmers and market gardeners as well as by the general public. In addition, restrictions have been placed on the import of vegetables and plants from the Continent, where the pest has made inroads on crops over the past 25 years.

Now, however, a more powerful anti-Colorado agent is getting under way—an International Control Scheme which had its first conference at Brussels last year and which has just completed its second annual meeting in Switzerland.

The members of this scheme are Holland, Belgium, France, Luxemburg, Eire, Jersey, and the United Kingdom, and with the

Youth in the war-devastated parts of the Western Union, still, alas, to be found in Holland, Luxemburg, and even France, will benefit from mutual help now being planned to restore the damaged equipment to their schools; there is to be more international co-operation in the manufacture and exchange of educational appliances.

Generally speaking, every effort will be made to tell each of the five Western Union countries what the others are doing in the teaching of its young people. The exchanges will be especially important on the higher levels of education, and embrace university professors. Furthermore, the exchange of students, teachers, and schoolchildren for educational and holiday purposes may be greatly increased.

Interchange of Doctors

It may also be decided that degrees and diplomas will be mutually recognised. This means that a French doctor will be able to practise in England and Holland or anywhere else in the Western Union, while an English doctor will be free to do likewise in any of the other four countries.

Many Europeans believe that there could be no better contribution to the speedy establishment of a real union of the West than a full execution of the cultural programme outlined above. For, statistically, Western Union is already a big Power. It contains more than 100 million people; it is the home not only of ancient skills, but also of powerful industries, and of great engineering and chemical works. It has vast shipping and trade resources, and great reserves of raw materials at its disposal.

What, however, it still needs is a greater feeling of unity and comradeship. This cannot be achieved by pacts which bring together officials only. Real unity must mean contact between millions of people of diverse nationalities and a continuous understanding of the other fellow's trend of thought. This is the path which Western Union is now to follow.

funds which each has contributed to the common cause, a start has been made already. This fund has financed a big propaganda campaign in Belgium, Holland, and Northern France (where the beetle had got almost completely out of hand), and has also met the expenses of 20 qualified technicians to help to operate the scheme. A wide zone along the German frontier from the Dutch coast to the south of Luxemburg has been sprayed three times with insecticide in an attempt to hold back the pest.

The biggest hopes of success rest on the individual grower, and therefore an international propaganda film is in production to bring home to the European land workers the danger to their future which the beetle represents.

This is yet another field in which the nations can work together for the common good.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR YOUTH?

VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY made a bold but splendid suggestion in a recent speech. He proposed that a National Trust for Youth should be established, something on the lines of the Pilgrim Trust or the British Council.

He said this Trust should receive an annual grant from the Government and would help existing youth movements. He suggested that its trustees should be appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Speaker of the House of Commons, and the Presidents of the Federation of British Industries and the TUC.

In his speech Lord Montgomery said he did not believe that the service of youth in Britain today was nearly as good as it could be. "Young people today," he went on, "are subjected to influences unknown to their grandfathers, namely, gangster films, black market activities, cheap thrillers, and the like. 'Spectatoritis'—the disease of people who like looking at things instead of doing things—is widespread."

He was speaking at Church House, Westminster, where he was launching an appeal for £100,000 to extend the work of the Outward Bound Trust, the organisation formed to take over the short-term sea school at Aberdovey—described last year in the CN—and to promote similar schools based on mountaineering and other challenging pursuits.

A "MAYOR" MEETS A MAYOR

THE opening remarks of 14-year-old Patrick Flynn, of Waltham, London, when he visited the Mayor of Southwark the other day, might well have been "Speaking as one Mayor to another..." For Patrick is the "Mayor" of a Council organised by the senior boys of the Avenue Road Modern Secondary School.

After he had been elected, Patrick wrote to the Mayor of Southwark asking if he could visit him and get some hints on how to carry out his duties. The Mayor was interested in the Council and invited Patrick and some of his "Corporation" to come and see him. The boys had a long chat with him, and after the discussion witnessed a Council meeting.

The Power of the Bible

YOUNG Christians in London are helping to present a wonderful new Pageant illustrating how today, as of old, God speaks to man. The Pageant, by Doris R. Alder, is called *The Ladder*, and is to take place at Kingsway Hall, London, on November 27 at 7 p.m. It is being presented by the London Youth Group and other friends of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

It begins with the story of Jacob's dream, in which the ladder becomes a symbol of the influence of the Bible down the Ages. There are scenes from the Old and New Testaments, from history, and the present time showing how God breaks through into men's everyday lives. In the midst of starvation, of war, of homelessness, and of disillusionment and doubt, He has found a way into men's lives.

WORLD NEWS REEL

ENDURANCE. An 18-year-old mountaineer, Josef Bendler, hung for 48 hours on the end of a rope from a mountain in the Tyrol before he was rescued.

A BBC Television programme has been received in South Africa, 6000 miles away.

The Nobel Prize for Medicine has been awarded to Dr Paul Mueller, a Swiss scientist, for his discovery of the insecticide DDT.

The Rhos choir of 85 Welsh miners not long ago gave concerts at various towns in Spain.

GRAND OLD TUB. The Hain-tai, oldest ship on Lloyd's Register, is still working between North China ports. She was built in 1840 at St Petersburg by Scottish engineers as a yacht for a Russian Grand Duke, and was one of the first iron ships.

The number of settlers admitted to Southern Rhodesia during last August was a record—1922.

Women formed nearly one-third of the students who took degrees at United States universities during the year, ended June 30.

HOME NEWS REEL

THE WINNER. Some 3000 entries were sent to the Royal Society of Arts' United Europe poster competition. Winning design was from Melville Williams, an 18-year-old Bristol art student.

At the recent Dairy Show at Olympia, British Friesian cows won the Bledisloe Trophy for the tenth time. The contest was for milk yield, butter-fat content, and general appearance.

STOCK-TAKING. Pig population of England and Wales according to a September census was 2,088,000, an increase of 776,000 in a year. Sheep have increased by 502,000 to 10,222,000; cattle by 162,000 to 7,377,000.

When a 15th-century window of Luton Church was repaired a 1948 florin was embedded in it.

Unemployment in Wales fell by about 6500 to 39,159 during the year which ended on June 30. Unemployed were 5 per cent of the total insured population.

Two whales nearly 20 feet long recently swam up the Clyde to Glasgow.

A film of children at work and play at the Joseph Rountree School, New Earswick, York, has been made by the headmaster.

UNDERWATER CORNERS. A £700,000 dredging scheme has been approved by the Southampton Harbour Board. It will take away some sharp turnings in

Bernard Shaw's new play, *Buoyant Billions*, was performed for the first time recently at Zürich.

Canadian logs and sulphite pulp are to be converted into newsprint for Australia at the Bowater mills in Britain. The amount of paper produced will amount to 29,500 tons, and will be bought by the Australians at a third of the cost of paper produced in dollar countries.

A veteran of the American Civil War, Mr W. H. Osborn, died recently at the age of 105 at Joplin, Missouri. He served in the Federal (Northern) Army.

FOR INDIAN HEROES. The Dominion of India has three new awards for gallantry in its armed services. They are the Param Vir Chakra, corresponding to the Victoria Cross; the Maha Vir Chakra, equivalent to the DSO; and the Vir Chakra, corresponding to the MC.

Australia has sent 50 tons of butter and 30 tons of cheese to the United Nations Mediator for the relief of Arab and Jewish refugees in Palestine. The allocation was made at the request of Count Bernadotte shortly before he was assassinated.

the channels at the entrance to Southampton Water and enable ships to enter more easily.

Mrs Margaret Bale, aged 85, claims to be the oldest telephone operator in Britain. Senior operator at Cymmer, Glamorgan, she began work with the National Telephone Company five years before it was taken over by the Post Office.

SWEET NEWS. Beginning on December 5 the sweet ration is to be increased from 12 ounces to one pound for the four-week period, and the sugar ration will be increased from eight to ten ounces weekly.

A piglet was given to the best potato-picker of a school at Ibstock, Leicestershire.

Mrs Roosevelt is to unveil the memorial tablet to President Roosevelt in Westminster Abbey on November 12. Next day she is to receive an honorary degree at Oxford University.

HIDDEN TREASURE. Twelve pearls have been found recently in West Mersea oysters.

Last year motorists paid £391,116 in fines. The number of alleged offences was 392,359.

When eight European voluntary workers were married at Blackburn not long ago the marriage vows were repeated in Ukrainian, Polish, German, Italian, and English.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

COURAGE. The Girl Guide Badge of Fortitude has been awarded to Ranger Freda Millington of Northwich, Cheshire, for her courage and cheerfulness during a long illness.

The prompt action last August of Troop Leader Joseph Bradbeer, aged 17, of the 1st Tynemouth Scout Troop, in saving a man from drowning at Low Warden, near Hexham, has won for Joseph the Scout Gilt Cross.

Dagenham Sea Scouts have been given a cabin cruiser, which they have christened Brigand.

The Chief Scout will hold an investiture in London on November 20 to present Royal Certificates to new King's Scouts who will come from all parts of the country.

SEA SCOUT FLEET. The Sea Scouts of New Zealand have now more than 20 standard rowing and sailing boats in commission. These boats, 17 feet in length, are specially designed for use in New Zealand waters and carry a normal sailing crew of six and a rowing crew varying from one to six.

The Islands of Spice

A £16,000 transaction is being carried through between the British War Office and a British island colony in the Indian Ocean. The island is St Anne's, scarcely twice the size of Hyde Park, and one of the Seychelles group of about a hundred islands lying north-east of Madagascar.

The Seychelles islands once belonged to France and they are, in fact, named after an 18th century Frenchman, Moreau de Sechelles, Finance Minister to Louis XV. Occupied in 1794 by Great Britain during the French Revolutionary Wars, they were ceded to Britain by the Treaty of Paris in 1814.

The population today numbers about 35,000, mainly natives with African or Indian ancestry, and as a result of the French occupation six out of seven are Roman Catholics, though witch-

craft is still practised by many of the natives.

Copra, made from the dried kernel of the coconut and producing an oil used in the manufacture of margarine, soap, candles, and so on, is the colony's main product, but tortoiseshell and salt fish are also exported.

When the islands were French valuable spices, particularly vanilla, were the chief exports. One day, however, a ship flying the Union Jack was sighted, and thinking the British were attacking the island the French destroyed the plantations to prevent their falling into enemy hands. To their chagrin, the vessel turned out to be a French pirate using the British flag as a disguise. But since that day, vanilla has ceased to be grown to any great extent in the Seychelles.

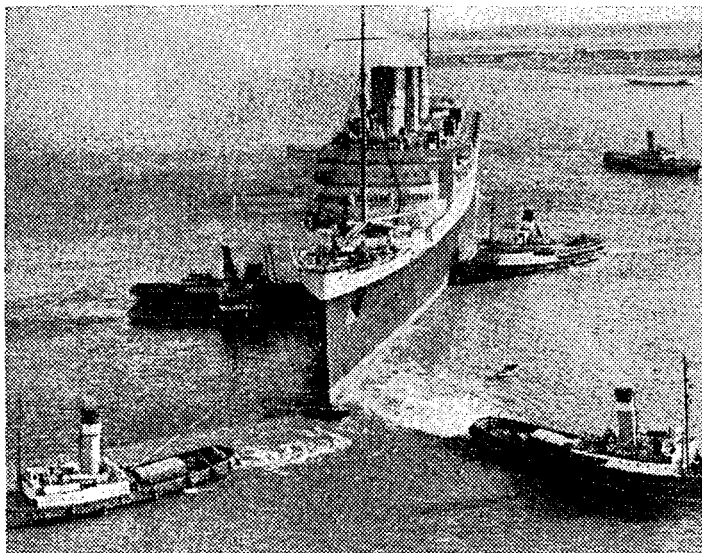
A Fine Norfolk Craftsman

ONE of the treasures of Norwich Cathedral is the Book of Remembrance, with 115 richly-illuminated vellum pages bearing the 15,156 names of those belonging to the diocese who lost their lives in the First World War. This book is enduring testimony of the fine work of Mr J. J. Hall, of Great Yarmouth, who is retiring owing to failing eyesight.

Born in London on Trafalgar Day, 1879, Mr Hall has lived at Yarmouth since he was two. "Wherever his illuminated scrolls and addresses are to be found," writes a friend in a tribute in The Norfolk Magazine, "his name will always be remembered and honoured for his exquisite work."

A Swedish Sculptor's Treasures Go Home

THE Swedish Government recently granted 600,000 kronor (£41,400) for the acquisition of the precious art collections—antique sculpture, and so on—belonging to the famous Swedish sculptor Professor Carl Milles and now gathered in his home in Cranbrook, U.S.A. They will be added to the other collections in the Milles Home at Lidingsö, outside Stockholm, now an art museum. At the same time Carl Milles himself is giving to this museum his collections of his own works and other modern art.



Greyhound and Terriers

Tugs push and pull the Queen Mary as they manoeuvre the huge liner into the King George V dry dock where she is having her annual overhaul.

SNAILS PUT UP THE SHUTTERS

With the approach of cold weather groups of snails may be seen huddled together in cracks at the base of garden walls, or sheltering under old, moss-covered tree-trunks. If one of these snails is examined a thin membrane, resembling plaster of Paris when it has hardened, will be seen stretching across the mouth of the shell, and within this are other membranes, up to eight in number, serving as an added defence against winter's rigours for the small snail curled up at the very end of its shell.

Snails have no defence, however, against the attacks of such enemies as the thrush and the blackbirds. To these birds the shell and the membranes present no real difficulty. They simply carry the snail in their beaks to a handy stone on which to hammer the shell till it breaks. They have their own favourite "breaking-stones," easily recognised from the fragments of shells which surround them.

Thrushes and blackbirds are allies of the gardener, for snails are very destructive to plant life, and there are over 70 species in the British Isles alone.

Industrial Design



One of the most interesting displays in the Design At Work Exhibition at Burlington House, London, is this scale model of the DH 108 jet plane.

Lobsters For Dollars

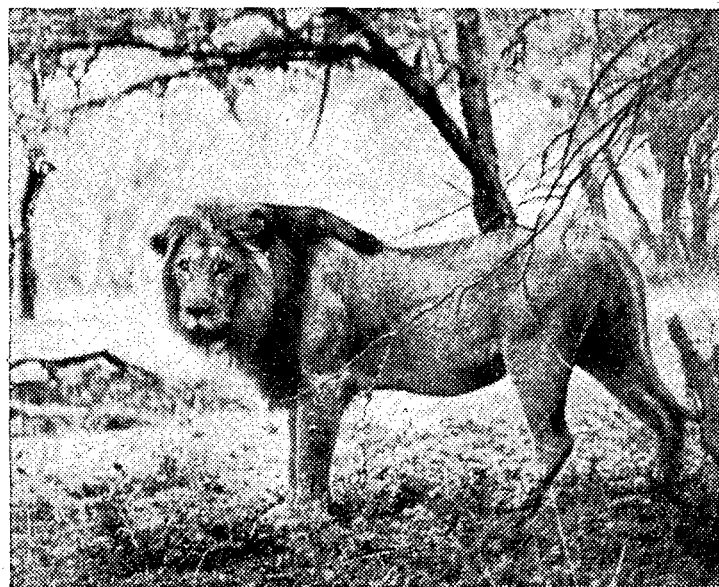
THE latest dollar-earners are thousands of lobsters which have been caught in the Hebrides, taken to Oban, and there stored in special lobster ponds and sunken barges till they are required.

Americans visiting this country have come to consider Hebridean lobsters a special delicacy, and for their benefit storage tanks for live lobsters are being prepared on the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mary, Aquitania, Mauretania, and other liners. On the voyage across the Atlantic these lobsters are to be sold to the Americans for dollars.

BOARDING SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

MOTHERS and fathers all over the country may soon be going back to school if a new centre, to be opened at Theydon Bois, Essex, proves successful. The curriculum of the new school, which is officially described as a "residential centre for adults," will include social, cultural, and recreational subjects.

If the experiment is a success, and inquiries to the Essex Education Committee suggest it will be, similar centres will be opened elsewhere.



Portrait of a Lion

One of the lions sometimes encountered by tourists in the Kruger National Park is seen in this striking photograph from South African Railways.

Magnet to Prevent Rattling Doors

BRITISH car manufacturers are using a new magnet material which holds doors securely and spares motorists the annoyance of rattling doors when travelling fast.

The door is closed in the ordinary way, but as the edge of the door approaches the lock the magnet "takes over," draws the door closed and holds it firmly in place. In fact, such is the grip of the new magnet that a special key is provided, the turning of which forces the metal part of the door away from the magnet, when a slight push on the door opens it in the ordinary way.

ASSISTED MIGRATIONS

IN recent months a great variety of animals and birds has been carried by BOAC and Qantas Empire Airways from India and Pakistan for zoos in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe.

Now comes news of traffic in the reverse direction: animals from Britain are flying to new homes in the Commonwealth.

Many of them are dogs, following their masters or mistresses to new lands. Other shipments have included pigeons to South Africa, pheasants to Kenya, canaries and golden hamsters to India, day-old chicks to Malta, and live poultry to various destinations.

A New Seaport For India

THE Government of India is planning a large new seaport at Kandla on the south coast of the Island of Cutch, north of Bombay.

At present the two great ports of the western coast of the Indian peninsula are Bombay and Karachi; but since Karachi has become the capital of the separate Dominion of Pakistan, India has felt the imperative need of a second seaport on her western shores.

A Committee was appointed by the Indian Government to find a suitable site for the new port, and they have decided on Kandla, on the Gulf of Cutch, where there is a natural deep-water harbour and plenty of vacant land nearby for the development of port facilities. The chosen site is

SAFETY IN BUSES

A NEW safety device to reduce the risk of accidents to bus passengers has been invented by the manager of Lincoln's transport department. A warning light in the drivers cabin is illuminated whenever a passenger takes hold of either of two grab rails on the rear platform.

The device has proved so successful an experiment that it is now to be fitted to the new bus fleet which the city has ordered.

The Smith, a Youthful Man is He

THE blacksmith is gradually disappearing from our villages, but at a technical college at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, 15 apprentices between 16 and 20 years old are attending a course that will enable them to help to fill the thinning ranks.

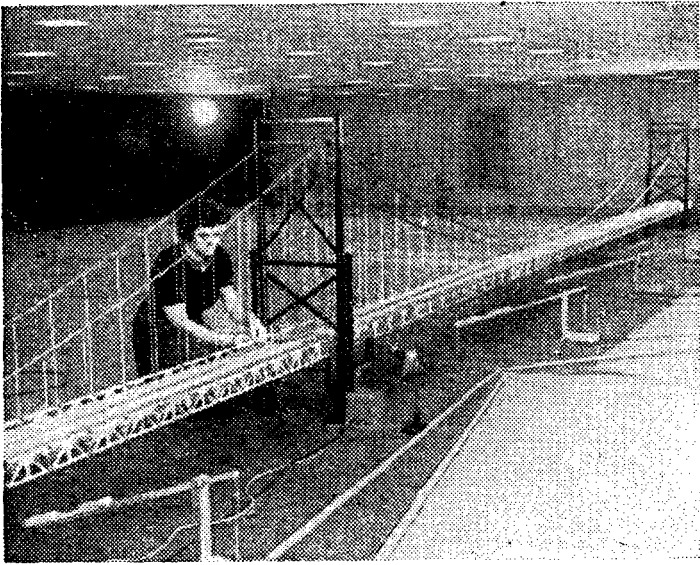
One night a week these young men study the theory of their craft, as well as mathematics, costing, and draughtsmanship—subjects which the majority of old blacksmiths would look upon with amazement. Of the apprentices, some of whom travel up to 25 miles to attend the lectures, only two are already following in their father's footsteps.

At the end of their course they will sit for an examination which, if they pass, will qualify them as craftsmen and entitle them to set up their own smithies.

about 200 miles south-east of Karachi, and roughly 300 miles north of Bombay.

The Island of Cutch, however, is not yet connected by railway to the mainland, from which it is separated, on the north and east, by those extensive and curious swamps, the Great Rann and Little Rann of Cutch. These are wide and desolate salt marshes, covered with salt water in the rainy season, and dry and hard in places during the dry months, when herds of wild asses may be seen wandering across them. But at the eastern end of the Island of Cutch only narrow channels of the swamp divide it from the mainland, and, presumably, bridges will have to be built across these channels to bring the railway to Kandla.

The Bridge in the Wind Tunnel



Final adjustments being made to the model of the Severn Bridge before it is tested for wind resistance.

How much wind pressure can a bridge withstand? That is a question for which an answer is being found at Thurleigh, in Bedfordshire, where a new wind tunnel has been erected for the Ministry of Transport. The investigation of wind-pressure on suspension bridges is but one of the tunnel's functions, but there is special interest in the model now being tested. It is a small replica of a bridge which is to be the largest of its kind in Europe; it is to be built over the River Severn. The trials now taking place will enable the engineers to decide on the most suitable design in which safety and efficiency in the highest winds may be combined with the employment of the minimum amount of materials.

The operations with the new wind tunnel are an extension of experiments that have been in progress since 1945 at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington; and already trials in the tunnel at Thurleigh, with a model bridge, 52 feet long, have shown how the bridge at Tacoma, in the U.S.A., was wrecked in a storm eight years ago. These tests have enabled the engineers to amend weakness of design of the Tacoma Bridge, and in future to render such a bridge absolutely safe. Wind-pressure is one of the greatest dangers against which bridge builders must guard their structures.

The Tay Bridge disaster of 1879, when the bridge collapsed during a hurricane and carried a train with its 75 passengers into the

waters, was found to have been caused by a gale acting on a structure which was too flimsily built. We must marvel that, with so little known of the strength of materials and the effects of wind-pressure in those days, there were not more such calamities. The iron put into the bridge over the Menai Straits—opened in 1850—was so excessive in quantity that much of it served only to weaken the bridge by its unnecessary weight. The tensile strength of its iron equals 22 tons per square inch. The Forth Bridge, more modern and of steel, lighter and more economical in material, has a tensile strength of 33 tons a square inch.

One of the means of gaining data as to wind-pressure for the Forth Bridge was amusingly primitive yet effective. The engineers secured an old glass window that had endured, without harm, the storms of many years in the Firth of Forth. This was removed, frame and all, and set up safely elsewhere, and there submitted to carefully-watched experiments with pressure until at last the glass yielded. The force exerted to bring this about was carefully noted, and as the window was so old and had withstood so many storms, the engineers were able to say that such pressures did not occur naturally in the Firth. With that knowledge they were able to add to the strength of the bridge and allow an adequate margin of safety.

The Man Who Answered The Bell

WADDILOVE Methodist Missionary School in Southern Rhodesia, one of the finest native training institutions in Africa, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

It had its origin in the work and sacrifice of a famous Methodist missionary, John White of Cumberland, who went to Southern Rhodesia in the last century and began by gathering a few native boys in a mud hut and teaching them. From this grew the Waddilove School of which he was Principal for 14 years.

He was dearly loved by the natives for he fought hard in the early days to secure just treatment for them. Worn out in their service—he passed on in 1933 aged 67—he was sent back

to England by his doctors in 1932. Some of the natives, however, wrote a letter begging that he should be allowed to remain.

"We trust him so much," they wrote, "that we take everything of ours to him . . . There is a little bell at the door of his office which natives ring to announce their presence. When that is rung he comes to the door so promptly that one would think he came to greet a king. The bell rings so often during the day and every day of the year that even the most humble man of any colour would be annoyed; but not Mr White. No native is too low for him to shake hands with."

Now the school he started in a mud hut trains thirty native teachers every year.

How the Amazon Got Its Name

BRAZIL is rich in folklore traditions and popular legends, and the Brazilian National Commission for Unesco recently set up a National Folklore Commission to carry out research work in this fascinating subject.

One of the legends to be studied will probably be that which gave the mighty River Amazon its name. The story is that in 1541 some Spanish explorers were astonished at being attacked by a band of fierce women warriors on the banks of a tributary of the great river. The Spaniards put them to flight and afterwards set out to trace this peculiar tribe of warlike females. But all they could discover about them was an Indian legend of rebel women who had been expelled by the "Son of the Sun" from his kingdom, and who had come to live near a lake called the Mirror of the Moon, into which they were in the habit of diving for talismans on the greenish clay at the bottom of the lake.

The Spaniards called the women with whom they had fought, Amazons, after the female warriors of Greek mythology, and so the river came to be known as Rio de las Amazonas.

To get to the bottom of this strange story will doubtless be one of the interesting tasks of the Commission.

CHARLES STUART FOUGHT HERE

Most boys and girls have difficulty in remembering the dates of battles, but October 27, 1644, is one date that the children who attend the new secondary school near Newbury, Berkshire, should find quite easy to remember.

It was on that date that the second Battle of Newbury was fought, and the new secondary school is the famous Shaw House, the headquarters of Charles the First during the battle, the Berkshire education authority having recently converted it for this purpose.

It was here, in fact, that Charles nearly lost his life. When Parliamentary troops were attacking the mansion a shot from a musket missed the King by inches and buried itself in the woodwork behind him.

Four cannon captured by the Royalists before they retired to Oxford still stand in the courtyard.

WORKERS' PARADE



An eel fisher on the River Severn with his old-fashioned eel spear which consists of flat spring steel blades attached to a 20-foot pole.

The Editor's Table

PLAYING FIELDS

"I WANT more light, more air, and more green grass," said Mr Herbert Morrison at the Mansion House when the need for more playing fields was stressed.

Since 1946 three hundred new playing fields have been added to the resources of local communities where children may enjoy the run of the green grass and play without fear. But far too many children still have to play in the streets, a menace both to themselves and to passing traffic. As Mr Morrison said, "Streets are not designed for children. Neither are children designed for streets." To cordon off some streets as play places is only a half-measure. Play, with ample space and freedom is the birthright of every child, and there is no better playground than a green field.

Fortunately, most of Britain's great cities have green spaces, although all too often they are formal parks with notices to keep off the grass. But in many new areas the children have been denied parks or green fields, and consequently the street is their only place for outdoor play with one another.

TEAM games and free exercises at school are enjoyed by modern children, but on leaving school far too many of our young people merely watch games instead of playing them.

The answer to all these problems is in more playing fields.

Local authorities now have the power to take over open spaces and to see to it that in every building development one of the first acts is to plan a playing field and to safeguard its future. And the National Playing Fields Association is appealing for £500,000 to see that no child is short of a stretch of land to play on.

In this era of commercialised sport there is ample scope for watching games. But looking on at games is no substitute for playing in them, nor half as much fun. All youth should have the chance to

*Play up, play up
And play the game.*

To place this chance within reach of all is a noble ideal. More playing fields and yet more playing fields will be an invaluable contribution to the nation's health and well-being.

The Good Fellow

ONE of the animals which a generous and sociable man would soonest become is a dog. A dog can have a friend; he has affections and character, he can enjoy equally the field and the fireside; he dreams, he caresses, he propitiates; he offends, and is pardoned; he stands by you in adversity; he is a good fellow.

Leigh Hunt

The Tow-Rope Spirit

VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY has reminded his Alamein men of the tow-rope in the desert—a vivid symbol of friendship and willing assistance. Whenever a vehicle broke down a passing car would bring out its tow-rope and hitch the helpless to safety and succour.

The "tow-rope" spirit is the spirit of the Good Samaritan. Viscount Montgomery reminded his audience, and he wanted more of it in the life of Britain. When the Alamein men brought out their tow-ropes in the desert they were obeying the common instincts of unselfish duty.

That is the spirit which is needed today—the spirit which helps to keep alive faith in the honour and decency of ordinary men, men who, instead of throwing a "spanner into the works," will bring out the "tow-rope" for friendship's sake.

OUR SMOKY CITIES

THE National Smoke Abatement Society has just finished a national survey of areas where the air is polluted with smoke. A questionnaire was sent to local authorities in England, Scotland, and Wales, and they were asked to report on the atmosphere in their areas.

Not all of the replies could have been accurate, for some areas are not equipped with air-pollution stations which record the amount of soot, grit, and acid in the air; but there is no doubt that the Society's report will help to create an over-picture of the problem.

The air of many of our cities is definitely harmful to the people, and anything that can be done to improve conditions is a step in the right direction. Complete purification of the air, of course, is impossible; this can only be done by a gradual changing of the equipment producing the harmful smoke. There are certain ways of immediate improvement, and these should be no delay with these.

Under the

IT is surprising what can be grown in a roof garden. But everything has to be taken up.

IT is time the English realised they are a musical nation. And blow their own trumpet.

SQUIRRELS must take the blame for the shortage of Kent wood nuts. They don't mind if they can take the nuts too.

A NATIONAL park should be planned as a going concern. Or a coming one.



SUPPLIES of fresh fish always drop in the autumn. Someone must be careless.

TIME FLIES

MICK WHITE, a Lansdowne, New South Wales, farmer, will not easily forget his indiscretion in leaving his wristlet watch on a post when he had a special job to do the other day.

A kookaburra was attracted by Mick's treasured timepiece, it is said, because the bird heard it ticking, and so thought it was alive. Promptly the kookaburra tore off the wristband, swallowed the watch, and flew away.

Many people assert that they have time on their side. This laughing jackass had time in his inside.

Curing a Headache

THE present school-planning position is perhaps the worst headache that has ever afflicted the educational world," recently declared Mr D. R. Hardman, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education. But he went on to speak of the efforts being made to cure that headache.

Since January 1, 1947, the Ministry has approved of school building valued at £44,500,000, compared with only £7,700,000 in the four years following the First World War. Between August last year and August this year the national labour force on educational work has increased from 3750 to 12,450.

"There is a particular temptation just now," continued Mr Hardman, "to relegate schools to second place. These are not the thoughts of the Government."

It is indeed encouraging to see that the Government, in spite of many serious distractions, are steadfastly sticking to the task—approved by all parties—of building Britain's educational future.

THE HAPPY MIND

GIVE to me a happy mind That can always seek and find, Something good and something kind All the world over. *Eliza Cook*

Editor's Table

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If ship's crockery
is washed up by the
sea



GREENHAM ladies are learning the way to make a blouse from a man's shirt. They will get into it.

THE man who says he has made all his money out of doors should try a few windows for a change.

FORTY-NINE tenants suggested to a Housing Committee a scheme for supplying hot water. The Committee threw cold water on it.

SHOES, we are told, can be made of the skin of codfish. Sounds as if there is a catch in it.

FOOD Ration Can't Go Up, says a newsheading. Most of us manage to put it down.

THINGS SAID

THE very gallant and successful fight which Great Britain has put up to build up her exports and hold down imports, and thus achieve financial stability, is one which commands the admiration of the world.

Paul G. Hoffman, Administrator, European Recovery Programme

THE British Commonwealth is the nearest approach to a co-operative community of independent nations the world has ever seen.

Sir John Boyd-Orr

I HAVE heard it said facetiously that Britain and America are two nations separated by a common language. If it is only a language that separates us, we are well on the way to union.

General Eisenhower

What Do Young People Read?

THE Chief Librarian of Richmond, Surrey, has gleaned some interesting information about the preferences of young readers. Half of them like adventure stories best. Girls like school stories.

A work which is in constant demand is Arthur Mee's Children's Encyclopedia, and there is a steady demand for Bible stories, particularly if these are well illustrated.

It is encouraging to note that the young people have a lively interest in general science, physics, chemistry, and natural history, and that there is always a "rush" for books dealing with outdoor games.

Evidently the young folk of Richmond have excellent taste.

Know Thyself!

READER! You have been bred in a land abounding with men able in arts, learning, and knowledges manifold: this man in one, this in another; few in many, none in all. But there is one art of which every man should be a master—the art of reflection. If you are not a thinking man, to what purpose are you a man at all? In like manner there is one knowledge which it is every man's duty and interest to acquire, namely self-knowledge. Or to what end was man, alone of all animals, endowed by the Creator with the faculty of self-consciousness?

Coleridge

BOOKS ARE NOT DEAD

BOOKS are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a potency of life in them to be as active as that soul was whose progeny they are; nay, they do preserve as in a vial the purest efficacy and extraction of that living intellect that bred them.

John Milton

JUST AN IDEA

As J. A. Froude wrote, Human improvement is from within outwards.

CAN YOU MAKE A SPEECH?

At any invitation to make a public speech many of us feel our stomachs turn over, a chill creep up our spines, and crimson blushes suffusing our faces. But many of the world's greatest orators once felt the same way.

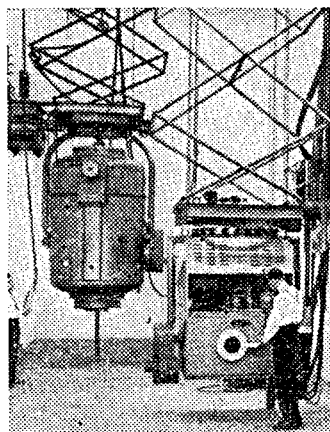
Now young people have an opportunity of showing what they can do in this direction. The National Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs has organised a speech-making competition called Youth Finds Its Voice, to help young people to use their mother tongue with grace and fluency.

For this contest Youth Clubs are invited to send teams of three persons, a chairman, another to make a five-minute speech, and a third to propose a brief vote of thanks. Different subjects on which they may speak include "What I should like to discuss with my MP" and "The best play I've seen."

The first rounds of the contest will take place in different areas of the country. The finals will be held in London on June 25, 1949, and among the judges will be Dame Edith Evans, D.B.E.

Entries must be sent in not later than the first post on December 1. Further information can be obtained from the Association, 30-32 Devonshire Street, London, W.1.

Powerful X-Ray



Rays from this huge ten-million-volt X-ray apparatus, just completed in America, can penetrate 16 inches of steel.

FARMERS' OWN FACTORY

WHEN Sir Stafford Cripps visited Wales he challenged resourcefulness by offering help to those who help themselves. One acceptance of the challenge is being made by 700 Merioneth farmers who are setting up a woollen factory in disused quarry premises at Dinas Mawddwy.

These farmers, under the Merioneth Woollen Society, have invested £30,000 towards the capital needed for the factory, where it is proposed to manufacture tweeds and blankets from Merioneth fleeces. It is said that a chain of such factories would solve many economic problems in Wales.

The significance of this project is not only commercial; it is also recognised as a real test of what the farmers themselves can do to restore rural economy and to check the drift of young people from Wales to English industrial centres. Much depends on the results of such projects.

The Lighthouse That Vanished Overnight

THE 14th of November marks the 250th anniversary of what was perhaps the brightest day in the life of Henry Winstanley, the builder of the first Eddystone Lighthouse—a jovial eccentric genius whose greatest success was an immortal failure.

Born in 1644, Winstanley, an Essex man, served various noblemen as engineer and builder before entering the service of Charles the Second and becoming his clerk of works at Newmarket.

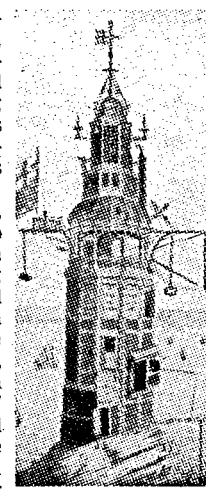
The merriest of men, Winstanley loved to play practical jokes on his friends, using astonishing mechanical devices of his own contriving. At his home at Littlebury, in Essex, if a guest touched an old slipper in one of the rooms, up would start a "ghost"; to take a seat in a certain innocent-looking chair

ensured that the sitter would find his arms pinioned, and himself, with the chair, set afloat in the centre of a neighbouring canal. He also had a famous "water theatre" at Hyde Park Corner, where, for a shilling a head, people saw effects from water jets that seemed to them as splendid as the new Trafalgar Square fountains seem to us.

But it was his lighthouse, not his many tricks, that made Winstanley lastingly famous. The Eddystone Rock, some 14 miles south-west of Plymouth, with only the little summit of its cruel reef visible at high tide, was the cause of wrecks and disasters, year after year. Light-hearted Winstanley was the first to grapple with the deadly problem by building his lighthouse on the scene.

The summer of 1696 was spent in boring 12 holes in the rock to receive as many irons to which to anchor his structure. During the second year a French privateer swooped down and carried off Winstanley and his men as prisoners.

Released two or three weeks later, Winstanley resumed his labours, and saw his building gradually rise, in part stone but with far too much wood, insecurely fastened. Nevertheless, with the structure raised to a



height of 80 feet, on the night of November 14, 1698, candles were lit in the lantern. For the first time lights flashed from Eddystone Rock to warn mariners of peril. For the first time in history navigation became safe there at night.

Winstanley's lighthouse looked not unlike a Chinese pagoda when, some time in 1700, it was finished. It had open galleries between the timber uprights, so that a six-oared boat, it was said, lifted on the crest of a wave, could be carried right through the main gallery under the light to the sea on the opposite side. Winstanley, an artist of no mean ability, made the picture of his masterpiece, which we give here, with himself shown at a high-placed kitchen window fishing to his heart's content.

So delighted was the architect with his work that he expressed the wish that the wildest storm ever known might rage, with himself in the lighthouse, to witness the triumph of his engineering skill over the turbulent seas.

Alas! all too soon the wished-for storm broke over the scene. On the night of November 26, 1703, came a tempest more terrible than anyone in the locality had ever seen. Winstanley had rowed off to join his men in making certain repairs in the lighthouse and so was present when its end came. In the morning there remained not one vestige of the first Eddystone Lighthouse. It had been swept into the sea and engulfed, and with it Winstanley himself and all his men.

Henry Winstanley was a jester, but he undoubtedly had exceptional talent as an engineer, and with it a courage that might in the end have borne him, with better fortune, to the very highest achievement.



THIS ENGLAND

The birthplace of Thomas Hardy at Higher Bockhampton, near Dorchester

A LAUNCH WITH A DIFFERENCE

PICTURESQUE Indian ceremonial was performed when two new ships were launched recently at the Victoria Yard of Harland and Wolff, at Belfast.

The ships were the *Sarasvati* and the *Sabarmati*, each of 3800 tons, which have been built for the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. of Bombay. Each vessel will be able to carry 40 passengers in cabins, and 1200 on deck, as well as general cargo.

The *Sarasvati* was named after the Indian goddess of learning, and the *Sabarmati* after a sacred river in the Bombay province. They are the first of many vessels to be built in Belfast, for the Indian Government is determined to expand its shipping from the present 300,000 tons to two million tons.

A woman is usually chosen to launch a ship in this country, but this time Sir Raghavan Pillai launched the ships. Instead of a bottle of wine coconuts were used, and rivet-boys had a merry time scrambling for the pieces.

The Four Bowls

On the launching platform was a silver salver bearing four silver bowls. The first contained rice, and the second rose petals. These were sprinkled on the ships as they moved off down the slipways. The third bowl contained a vermilion colouring matter called kum-kum, and the fourth yellow halder, which when mixed with water were used to paint swastikas on the ships' sides. The swastika is an ancient Indian symbol for good luck. At a launching in ancient times a priest attended, carrying a lighted torch, an egg, and some brimstone. With these he dedicated the vessel to the god whose image it carried.

Even today we retain vestiges of the old religious rites in the custom of christening ships. Almost invariably a woman performs the ceremony by breaking a bottle of wine against the stem of the vessel. It is regarded as unlucky should the bottle miss the stem or fail to break, so a special gadget makes sure that the bottle cannot fail to swing straight or to strike the stem with sufficient force.



..... NOTHING MYTHOLOGICAL ABOUT THEM. WHO, THEN, WERE THESE FOUR HEROES IN REAL LIFE?

FACT OF THE MATTER by PETER JACKSON



ATHOS WAS A NOBLE GENTLEMAN NAMED ARMAND DE SILLECUE. PORTHOS WAS IN REALITY JEAN DE PORTU, A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE. ARAMIS WAS ACTUALLY A LAY ABBOT NAMED HENRI D'ARAMITZ.



THE REAL D'ARTAGNAN (CHARLES DE BATZ-CASTLEMORE) WAS BORN IN 1623, WHICH MAKES HIM TWO YEARS OLD WHEN THE THREE MUSKETEERS OPENS. AT THE BATTLE OF MAESTRICHT IN 1673 HE DIED, SWORD IN HAND, TO LIVE FOR EVER IN DUMAS'S IMMORTAL CLASSIC.

A School For Diplomats in a Surrey Village

A NUMBER of young men from the colleges and universities of Britain are spending a few days this autumn in a lovely Georgian house at Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey, to pass a fresh kind of examination. They will all have passed their written examinations, most of them with credits; but in this new kind of college they are being tested for their general ability to be British representatives abroad.

Gone are the days when only wealthy young men of aristocratic connections were chosen to be Britain's ambassadors. In those days it was necessary to have come from one of three leading

public schools, and desirable to have family connections with the foreign service. But the young men who nowadays get off the bus and walk up to the old house at Stoke D'Abernon are from all sorts of schools and colleges; all of them, moreover, have got to earn their living.

Each man at this school is given tags to wear on his coat lapel and under his back collar. The men in charge of the school only know him by the number on his tag. The first tests are psychological—how fast can you fill in a number of blanks in a row of numbers where some are missing? What rhymes with a word in the first column and means the same thing in the second? Such posers are mental gymnastics.

One of the most interesting tests is the one in which each student is given a folder containing all the facts about an imaginary British colony called Fantasy Island. Then a problem is posed by the examiner. What would happen if the island were invaded? How would you arrange emergency measures, supposing you were the governor? Only a few minutes are given for the test, for it is a practical way of finding how soon the young man is able to master the details of a new situation and make decisions.

On the second day the young men are tested in turn about their ability to be chairman at a debate on the welfare of Fantasy Island, which includes the problem of

settling 10,000 displaced persons there. Each candidate has to give a ten-minute talk on a subject drawn from a list of seven or eight topics. Twenty minutes preparation is allowed and only twenty words may be written down as notes for the speech.

During the three concentrated days there are private interviews of an hour each, which makes a very heavy addition to the test. And all the time each candidate is being watched for his poise, good humour, and energy. Notes are made on all these points, and the future diplomats of Britain go away feeling that they have been looked at inside and out.

SAVING DOLLARS

ONE of the first guaranteed projects under the European Recovery Programme—the capital being supplied equally from British and American sources—is the construction of a plant on the River Mersey to make 8000 to 10,000 tons of carbon-black a year.

The significance and advantage of this project is two-sided. At present America is the sole source of carbon-black and exports to Britain nearly 50,000 tons. This scheme will reduce our dollar expenditure by 1,500,000 yearly.

On the other hand, it will help to guarantee a continuous supply of carbon-black to our tyre industry, which itself makes an important contribution to our export trade.

A MAYOR'S MACE WAS A WEAPON

THERE was a time when the mayoral mace now carried with pomp and dignity in civic processions was a weapon to be feared.

The first people to carry them were warring priests who, forbidden to shed blood with the sword, favoured spiked steel clubs that could penetrate the strongest armour. In Norman times knights also preferred them to swords and bore them into battle; but when armour became obsolete maces assumed a ceremonial value.

In 1344 the House of Commons decreed that maces decorated with precious stones could be carried by the King's sergeants-at-arms but later that privilege was granted to cities like London and York, and various towns.

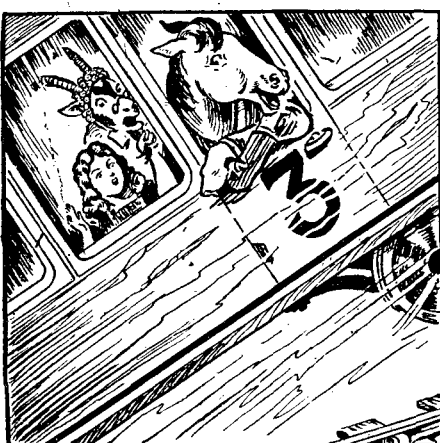
In some towns, however, maces took on different shapes. One at Grantham resembles a pole-axe, while Mayors of Chester, who also hold the rank of Admiral of the Dee, sport a silver oar as emblem of their civic power. Colchester also has a silver oar.

Their Own Union

Macebearers have their own trade union. Founded in 1931, it now has over 100 members and was recognised a year ago after a period of comparative inactivity. When someone suggested recently that vergers and beadle of the City livery companies should be allowed to join the secretary pointed out that they merely carried wands of office whereas macebearers bore weapons. He proved his case by stating that it was with a mace that William Walworth, Lord Mayor of London, knocked down the rebel Wat Tyler on June 15, 1381.

Today maces are among the most treasured items of civic regalia, but a century ago they were not so highly esteemed; in fact, it was not uncommon for a Town Council to pawn its mace to raise money quickly. Grave-sand's mace, which is about 240 years old, did not belong to the town at all from 1851 to 1881. Sheriff's officers had seized it for debt and it was later redeemed from a pawnbroker's shop for £311 15s 5d.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS—Lewis Carroll's Delightful Fantasy, Told in Pictures



The engine of the train going through Looking-Glass land gave a shrill scream and everybody jumped up in alarm. The horse said, "It is only a brook we have to jump over." Everyone seemed satisfied with this, though Alice was nervous at the idea of trains jumping. Then she felt the carriage rise into the air and she grabbed the goat's beard which, however, seemed to melt away at her touch.



Next, she found herself, unhurt, sitting under a tree. A giant gnat, that had talked to her in the train, was fanning her with its wings. "What sort of insects do you rejoice in where you come from?" it asked. "I don't rejoice in insects at all," she replied. "But I can tell you the names of some. There's the horse-fly..." The Gnat broke in, "Over there you'll see a Rocking-horse-fly."



"It is made of wood," continued the Gnat. "It gets about by swinging from branch to branch. It lives on sap and sawdust." Alice looked at the Rocking-horse-fly with interest, then said, "We have the dragon-fly..." The Gnat replied "On that branch is a Snap-dragon-fly. It is made of plum pudding, its wings are holly leaves, and its head is a raisin burning in brandy; it makes its nest in a Christmas-box."



"We have the butterfly," said Alice. "Crawling at your feet," interrupted the Gnat, "is a Bread-and-butter-fly. Its wings are slices of bread and butter, its body is a crust, its head a lump of sugar." After that the Gnat flew away, and Alice walked on to a wood where she found two signposts, both pointing along the same path. One said: "To Tweedledum's House," and the other: "To the House of Tweedledee."

Who Are These Oddly-Named Individuals? See Next Week's Instalment of This Entertaining Story

The Children's Newspaper, November 13, 1948

THE GOAT STAR When the Eskimos Eat AND THE KIDS Their Boats

By the C.N. Astronomer

THE brilliant Capella and the grand constellation of Auriga may now be seen high in the east after about 8 p.m.

Auriga, usually represented as a man driving a wagon with a Goat and pair of Kids in his arms, actually symbolises a Shepherd, and dates from very ancient Chaldean times, probably some 8000 years ago. The star Capella represents the Goat, and is popularly known as the Goat Star, while the elongated triangle of the third-magnitude stars, Epsilon, Eta, and Zeta in Auriga, represent the Kids. These may be identified from our star-map, which represents only a small portion of the constellation.

The Goat Star, Capella, is composed of two great golden-hued suns which together radiate about 150 times more light and heat than our Sun, but are about 2,990,000 times more distant. These great suns average about 79 million miles apart, one being about four times more massive than our Sun, while the other is rather more than 3½ times more massive—that is, they contain that amount more material by weight. Their diameters are between three and four times greater than that of our Sun.



These suns revolve in very elliptical orbits round their common centre of gravity in 104 days; the larger sun has the smaller orbit and speeds at the average rate of 23 miles a second, while the other sun with the larger orbit has to travel at 29 miles a second to complete the journey in the same period as the larger sun.

Companion Suns

This pair of great suns, very similar to ours except in size, possess a pair of distant "companion suns." They are travelling either with or around Capella, and may be remote flaming planets; they are at the immense distance of some 1,069,500 million miles from Capella, and as these two bodies are about 3441 million miles apart, we realise on what a vast scale is this grand solar system of Capella, though it is only at a distance of about 48 light-years' journey.

Of the stars representing the Kids, Zeta is composed of two suns, but of a very different type from those of Capella. They are something like a thousand light-years distant and are very much larger, the central sun being of the "giant" class and resembling Arcturus, while the smaller sun is of the very hot Sirian type. They revolve round their common centre of gravity once in 973 days and at an average distance apart of 367 million miles.

Epsilon, at a distance of 293 light-years, is a singular sun that waxes and wanes between about 300 and 600 times the light-giving radiance of our Sun, over the remarkably long period of 27 years. Eta-in-Auriga is another great sun which, at a distance of about 251 light-years, radiates 250 times more light and heat than our Sun. G. F. M.

A CENTURIES-OLD tradition among Eskimos, who could always rely on their boats to provide a meal in an emergency, is gradually dying out. The boat, the umiak, is a large open craft built of skin and driftwood. When cut up and boiled, it makes a juicy stew!

Now a Danish official, noting the modern Eskimo tendency to replace their umiaks with prynteleraks, says regretfully: "Modern technique is outdistancing the national, the interesting, and the picturesque among Greenland's Eskimos." For a pryntelerak, literally translated as a "smelly, smoke-propelled boat," is a motor-boat; today it can be seen in increasing numbers in northern waters.

For their water transport the Eskimos have relied for centuries on two types of boats, the well-known kayak and the umiak.

The kayak, as we know, is the traditional single-seater craft of the north, highly manoeuvrable and faster even than the Indian-type canoe. Made of skins stretched over a light driftwood frame, it is entirely covered-in except for the hole in which the Eskimo sits. When he fastens his sealskin coat around this opening he is part of his craft, which is so watertight that he can roll over and hang head downwards in the water, and right himself again without taking a drop of water on board.

The umiak, on the other hand, is a large vessel varying in size from 15 to 40 feet, capable of carrying heavy loads. A loaded umiak is one of the wonders of the Arctic. Piled on board one finds furs, skins, food stores,

tents, newly-killed seals, old boxes, driftwood, oil lamps, and a varied assortment of old men, women, children, and even dogs! While a man sitting in the stern has the skilled but soft job of steering the dory-like vessel, women sit at the sides paddling furiously.

The making of the umiak is an object lesson in the clever use of local materials. A wooden framework is made of driftwood and branches gathered from small bushes growing along the Arctic coasts. Then the skins of newly-killed seals, walrus, or white whales are stretched over the framework and sewn together with sinew. The skin is put on without being "cured" with tanning chemicals, and when the hides dry they shrink to make a skintight, compact cover. The result is a boat which, for seaworthiness, resilient strength, shallowness of draught, ease of movement, and load-carrying ability has no equal.

But it is a sad day in the life of the Eskimos when, in some emergency in which they are without food, they must choose between starvation and eating their umiaks. The umiaks always lose, for when the hides are cut into small strips and boiled to a jelly-like consistency, they make a delicious stew rich in protein—and flavour!

A USELESS CASTLE'S USEFUL END

NEARLY 200,000 tons of masonry will crash to the earth when the great walls of the New Castle, at Murthly, in Perthshire, are demolished. Work has already been started on the drilling of 6000 holes in the walls which will be filled with tons of high explosives for the operation.

Murthly New Castle, which was built about 1826 and covers nearly an acre of ground, has a curious history. Sir John Stewart, who was Laird of Murthly in the early part of last century, once wagered the Marquis of Breadalbane that he could build a more handsome castle than the other.

Eager to win, the laird engaged a distinguished architect, who proceeded to design an ornate, many-turreted structure with elaborately-carved and pillared

walls. Work on the main building was nearly completed when the laird died, and his son, who had always opposed the costly project, stopped the building operations at once.

Since then New Castle has remained empty and deserted—a massive but empty shell of spacious ballrooms, imposing staircases, and great halls—while the Laids of Murthly have continued to live in the old castle, only a stone's throw away. Only occasionally have these empty walls echoed the sound of human voices.

After the demolition the masonry will be used in the construction of the Pitlochry Dam, which is being built under the North of Scotland Hydro-Electricity scheme.

Where Wackford Squeers Ruled

THE house at Bowes, Yorkshire, which is thought to be the original of Dickens' Dotheboys Hall in Nicholas Nickleby, was sold recently at Barnard Castle. It is known as The Villa and now has a farm attached to it.

It was here that Dickens in 1838 called on William Shaw, the schoolmaster who is supposed to have been the model for the despicable Wackford Squeers. Dickens was rudely received at this house. He was shown in by one door and immediately shown out by another.

It has been suggested that William Shaw was not as bad as Dickens depicted him. In a Life of Dickens by Thomas Wright, published some years

ago, it is stated that Shaw was a respected figure in his district and that when he died his neighbours paid due tribute to his memory.

However, before Dickens visited Yorkshire, it seems that Shaw had got into trouble because of his methods, but later he treated his boys better. His daughter, who has been described as "one of the sweetest and kindest of women" never recovered from the shock of finding herself painted as Fanny Squeers, but "suffered her undeserved martyrdom in silence."

It is thought that Dickens, turned out of Shaw's house so abruptly, relied for his information about the school on gossip.

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ÆSOP-TO-DATE



THE ELEPHANT AND THE FOOLISH SQUIRREL.

An Elephant one day observed a Squirrel dropping nuts into a pool. "Why do you not store them for the winter—as the wiser squirrels do?" asked the Elephant. "I can only store one nut at a time," answered the squirrel, "and it seems such slow work. So I'm making a jolly little splash instead." "Foolish Creature!" said the Elephant. "When you really want the nuts, you will have none."

Today's

Moral to this Savings Fable is:

If you're wise, and save some money week by week, you'll have a nice store for when you wish to buy something special. But if, instead, you make a "jolly little splash" and spend it every week—then, when you really want the money, you will have none.

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THE BRAN TUB

NOT WELCOME

THE new clerk had been sent to try to obtain settlement of an outstanding account.

"Was there any evasion on the client's part?" asked the boss when he returned.

"No, sir," was the reply. "The evasion was all on my part; he tried to kick me out."

Poor Percy.

POOR Percy, all alone one day, Was doing shadow boxing. He'd dance around, and bob and sway, His shadow neatly foxing.

But then the shadow weary grew, So, as poor Percy feinted And aimed a left—well, it did too— Then Percy really fainted.

RODDY



"Would it help with my sums?"

BEDTIME CORNER

BILLY'S TANTRUM

LITTLE Billy had a cold, and, my word, he was miserable. He sulked and pouted when Mummie would not let him go out to play. Then he saw a small boy being wheeled past in a bath chair, and he regretted his tantrums. There is always someone less fortunate than you.

The Covetous Cat



THERE used to be a Tommy Cat, Who wished he'd seven tails; He wished each day for seven meals And milk in seven pails.

He wished that it was always night, With seven splendid moons; He wished that he could sing at once. His seven different tunes.

He also wished that he could join In seven different brawls. He wished that he could find a square With seven different walls.

But while he wished for all these things Sitting on seven tiles, Along came seven barking dogs And chased him seven miles.

Eric Weeks

Jacko Finds His Way in the Fog



"A Chinese lantern," chuckled Jacko. "Just right for light entertainment."

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

A Curious Cocoon. "What is it?" asked Ann.

Don appeared doubtful. "It looks like a cocoon of some sort," he replied, staring at the odd flask-shaped object, suspended from the raspberry canes.

"It seemed to be made of stiff silky stuff," Don told Farmer Gray later.

"It was the cocoon of an emperor moth," answered the farmer. "They are cleverly constructed, the entrance being guarded by a number of stiff bristles, which keep out enemy insects. The moth emerges unhindered because the bristles point outwards. The mouth of the cocoon then closes, so that you cannot tell if a cocoon is occupied or empty."

A RAP

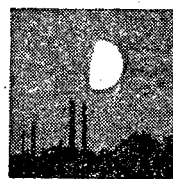
WE sometimes hear people say that they "don't care a rap" for something. Raps were counterfeit halfpennies that circulated in the 18th century. How the name originated is uncertain.



He bought a lantern, and holding it aloft he hurried homewards.

Other Worlds

IN the evening Jupiter is low in the south-west. In the



morning Venus and Saturn are in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening, November 9.

WHAT IS THIS WORD?

ALTHOUGH it seems I'm rather lean, And can be done without, If you should cut my tail from me I am a friendly bout.

Cut once again—twill bring to mind Some mineral waters of a kind. Now from my whole if you should start To cut my head away,

The cut will leave another cut In a different sort of way. Cut once again and you will see That I will then become to be.

Answer next week

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, November 10, to Tuesday, November 16

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Cinderella; The Three Semis.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Serenade for Children; Poetry; Two Pianos; A Story; The John MacArthur Quintet. Midland, 5.0 Lorna and the Fairies—a story; Famous Midland Homes (2). N. Ireland, 5.0 Ulster Magazine. North, 5.0 A Wild West Story; The Winwick Handbell Ringers; Book Quiz. Welsh, 5.30 Buckle My Shoes—a story; The United Nations Assembly.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Monkey Puzzle (5). 5.40 A Dublin Nursery (5). North, 5.40 Books Worth Reading.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Odds-Bobs-and-Mackerel; Songs; Frozen Gold—a story. 5.40 Sandy Macpherson. North, 5.0 Stuff and Nonsense; Cricket Hints. Welsh, 5.0 Two Stories: Nantlle Vale Male Choir; Welshman's Window—a talk.

SUNDAY, 5.0 A Tale of Two Cities (6). N. Ireland, 5.0 A Pandorum Story; A talk; A story; St Patrick's Boys' Band, Milltown. North, 5.0 Prelude (Part 1).

MONDAY, 5.0 Tales of Sam Pig (6). 5.15 Songs; Animal Imitations. 5.35 Music at Random (6). North, 5.0 The Launching of Janet (2); Holiday Stories. Scottish, 5.0 The Hut Man.

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Treasure Seekers (11). 5.20 Competition Results. 5.40 Northern Rhodesia—a talk. Midland, 5.20 Blyth School Senior Choir, Norwich. N. Ireland, 5.0 The Turf-Cutter's Donkey (6); Grey Brock—a story; Young Artists. Scottish, 5.0 Tammy Toot, M.P.; Down at the Mains. West, 5.40 Soccer—a discussion with the Sports Coach.

WHAT DID HE MEAN?

I MADE this cake all by myself," said little Joan proudly at the tea table.

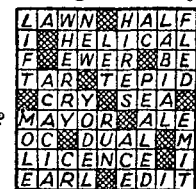
"Well done," replied Father. "But who helped you to lift it out of the oven?"

What Your Name Means

Sibyl	wise
Simon	obedient
Sophia	wisdom
Stella	a star
Stephen	a crown
Susannah	graceful lily

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

What Town is This? Blackpool.



Pithy Proverb

IF wishes were horses beggars would ride.

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